## Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) A compound ~~as claimed in claim 1 given~~ comprising a peptidic vector and at least one fluorescein dye, wherein the peptidic vector and the fluorescein dye are coupled, and wherein said peptidic vector is defined by formula I:

$$R_a-C(=O)-X_1-X_2-X_3-G-D-X_4-X_5-X_6-X_7$$
$$(I)$$
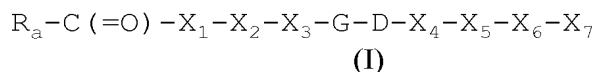
wherein Formula I comprises ~~comprising~~ two cyclising bridges, ~~wherein X₃, G and D are defined as in claim 1,~~ and wherein

R_a represents $-(CH_2)_n-$ or $-(CH_2)_n-C_6H_4-$ forming a bridge to one of ~~either~~ X_2, X_4 or X_6, wherein

    n represents a positive integer from 1 to 10, and

X_1 represents a bond or 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 amino acid residues, wherein one amino acid residue is optionally functionalised with a spacer moiety, or said amino acid residue possesses a functional side-chain ~~such as~~ chosen from an acid or amine group,

X_2 ~~and X₄ represent independently~~ is an amino acid ~~residues capable of~~ residue forming a cyclising bridge to one of R_a, X_4 or X_6;

X_3 represents arginine or N-methylarginine,

G represents glycine,

D represents aspartic acid,

$\underline{X_4}$ is an amino acid residue forming a cyclising bridge to one of $\underline{R_a}$, $\underline{X_2}$ or $\underline{X_6}$;

X_5 represents a hydrophobic amino acid or derivatives thereof, and

X_6 represents an amino acid residue ~~capable of~~ forming a cyclising bridge to either R_a, X_2 or $\underline{X_4}$, and

X_7 represents a spacer or biomodifier moiety or is absent, wherein said biomodifier comprises a monodisperse polyethylene glycol (PEG) building block comprising 1 to 10 units of said building block;

and,

the compound further comprising at least one group Z, representing a fluorescein dye, linked to one or more of the groups X_1, X_6 or X_7 optionally via a spacer group.

3. (Currently amended) A compound as claimed in claim 2 selected from one of the formulae ~~formulas~~;

(III)

$$
\begin{array}{c}
W_1 \!\!-\!\! Z \\
|
\end{array}
$$

$$R_a\text{-}C\,(\text{=}O)\text{-}X_1\text{-}X_2\text{-}X_3\text{-}G\text{-}D\text{-}X_4\text{-}X_5\text{-}X_6\text{-}X_7\text{-}Z$$

$$S \text{————} (CH_2)_h \qquad S \text{——} S$$

(IV)

$$Z \text{——} W_1$$

$$S \text{——————} S$$

$$R_a\text{-}C\,(\text{=}O)\text{-}X_1\text{-}X_2\text{-}X_3\text{-}G\text{-}D\text{-}X_4\text{-}X_5\text{-}X_6\text{-}X_7\text{-}Z$$

$$S \text{——————} (CH_2)_h$$

(V)
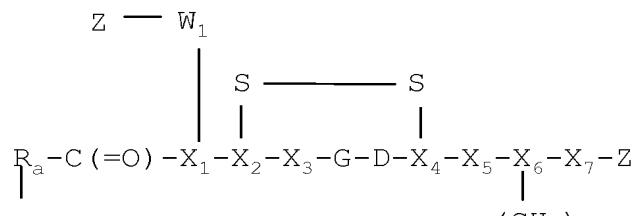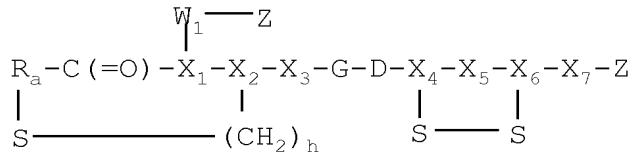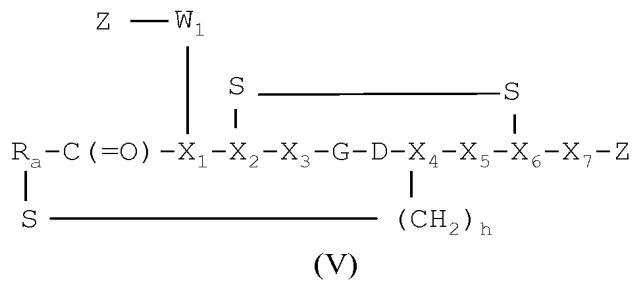
wherein ~~R_a, X_1,~~ X_3, G, and D,~~, X_5, and X_7~~ are as defined in ~~claims~~ claim 1 ~~and 2~~ and wherein

X_2, X_4 and X_6 represent amino acid residues ~~capable of forming~~ which together form a disulphide or a thioether bond as shown in Formulae III, IV or V,

W_1 is a spacer moiety or is absent,

h is a positive integer 1 or 2,

and wherein at least one of the Z groups is present representing a fluorescein dye.

4. (Original) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein R_a represents $-(CH_2)-$.

5.   (Currently amended) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X_1 represents an amino acid residue with a functional side-chain ~~such as~~ chosen from an acid or amine group, the amino acid being selected from aspartic acid, lysine, glutamic acid, homolysine or a diaminoalicylic ~~diaminoalcylic~~ acid ~~or derivatives thereof~~.

6.   (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X_2, X_4 and X_6 independently represent a cysteine or homocysteine residue.

7.   (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X_3 represents arginine.

8.   (Previously presented) A compound of formula III as claimed in claim 3 wherein X_5 represents phenylalanine, tyrosine, a 3-iodo-tyrosine or naphthylalanine.

9.   (Cancelled)

10.   (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, excipients or diluents.

11. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds of any of claim 1 for use as an~~ An optical imaging contrast agent which comprises the compound of claim 1.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Currently amended) A method of generating images of a human or animal body by optical imaging involving administering the ~~a~~ contrast agent of claim 11 to said body, and subsequently generating an image of at least a part of said body ~~to which said contrast agent~~

~~has distributed, characterized in that said contrast agent comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1~~.